

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as set forth in the following listing of claims, which replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims.

1. (Previously Presented) A catheter for the uniform delivery of fluid throughout an anatomical region, comprising:

an elongated, non-porous tube having a uniform, non-expandable diameter with a substantially consistent cross-sectional size between a proximal end and a closed distal end, said proximal end of said tube configured to be connectable to a supply of fluid located external of a body of a patient in which said catheter is placed, and a plurality of exit holes in side walls of said tube, said exit holes provided along a length of said tube defining an infusion section of said catheter, said tube being sized to be inserted into an anatomical region; and

an elongated member permanently positioned within said tube, said member being sized so that an annular space is formed between said tube and said member, said member being formed of a porous material that becomes saturated with a fluid introduced within said tube;

wherein said catheter is configured so that a fluid introduced into a proximal end of said tube will flow through said exit holes at a substantially uniform rate throughout said infusion section.

2. (Original) The catheter of Claim 1, wherein said member is concentric with said tube.

3. (Original) The catheter of Claim 1, wherein said member is not concentric with said tube.

4. (Original) The catheter of Claim 1, wherein said member is secured to said tube by a ring-shaped bond near the proximal end of said infusion section.

5. (Original) The catheter of Claim 1, wherein said member is secured to said tube by a ring-shaped bond generally midway between the proximal and distal ends of said infusion section.

6. (Original) The catheter of Claim 1, wherein said member is bonded to said tube at the distal end of said member.

7. (Original) The catheter of Claim 1, wherein said porous material has an average pore size within the range of .1 - 50 microns.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The catheter of Claim 1, wherein said annular space has a radial width within the range of 0-0.005 microns.

10. (Original) The catheter of Claim 1, further comprising an air filter in the flow path of said tube.

11. (New) The catheter of Claim 1, wherein said plurality of exit holes are uniformly spaced along said length of said tube.

12. (New) A catheter for the uniform delivery of fluid throughout an anatomical region, comprising:

an elongated, non-porous tube having a uniform, non-expandable diameter with a substantially consistent cross-sectional size between a proximal end and a closed distal end, said proximal end of said tube configured to be connectable to a supply of fluid located external of a body of a patient in which said catheter is placed, and a plurality of exit holes in side walls of said tube, said exit holes provided along a length of said tube defining an infusion section of said catheter, said tube being sized to be inserted into an anatomical region;

an elongated member permanently positioned within said tube, said member being sized so that an annular space is formed between said tube and said member, said member being formed of a porous material that becomes saturated with a fluid introduced within said tube; and

an annular member disposed near the proximal end of said infusion section and configured to substantially prevent fluid introduced within said tube from entering said infusion section without first passing through said elongated member;

wherein said catheter is configured so that a fluid introduced into a proximal end of said tube will flow through said exit holes at a substantially uniform rate throughout said infusion section.

13. (New) The catheter of Claim 12, wherein said plurality of exit holes are uniformly spaced along said length of said tube.